

CHAPTER IV.

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS RELATING TO THE NORMAL SCHOOL, 1853.

I. RECENT APPOINTMENTS OF MASTERS IN THE NORMAL AND MODEL SCHOOLS.

(NOTE.—The following paper was written by Mr. Hugh Scobie, a Member of the Council of Public Instruction, a few months before his death, and inserted in the *British Colonist* newspaper, which was owned by Mr. Scobie.)

Since the retirement of Mr. H. Y. Hind, last autumn, from the Second Mastership of the Normal School, the duties of his department have been discharged by Mr. J. H. Sangster, and a special Lecturer in Chemistry and Natural Philosophy. On the appointment of Mr. Sangster to the Head Mastership of the Central School at Hamilton, and the settlement of the Normal and Model Schools in their new premises, special arrangements have been made. Among these, the Council of Public Instruction have conferred the appointment of second Master upon the Reverend William Ormiston, A.B., Presbyterian Clergyman, of Clarke, County of Durham. Mr. Ormiston is a gentleman of large experience in teaching in Upper Canada, having been successively a Teacher of Common School, a Classical Tutor, a Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy and Logic, in one of our Provincial University Colleges; in each of which positions he acquitted himself with great ability and success. Mr. Ormiston is a graduate of Victoria College; he had charge of the English Department in that Institution, and was subsequently Classical Tutor, while Doctor Ryerson was connected with it; and such was Doctor Ryerson's opinion of his abilities and qualifications as a Teacher, that, on his return from Europe, in 1846, and before the establishment of the Provincial Normal School, he wished to recommend Mr. Ormiston to the Head Mastership of it; but Mr. Ormiston declined the offer, on the ground of his intending to devote himself to the clerical profession. Again, on the anticipated retirement of Mr. Hind, last year, Doctor Ryerson renewed his application to Mr. Ormiston, who, however, still hesitated to leave his position, which was, in every respect, agreeable to him, and the emoluments of which exceeded the salary offered. But, on visiting the Normal School premises, a few weeks ago, Mr. Ormiston was so impressed with the noble character of the Institution, and its vastly increased facilities for conferring the greatest good upon the Country, that he expressed something like regret that he had not otherwise considered the offers which the Chief Superintendent of Education had made to him. On learning this, Doctor Ryerson conferred again with Mr. Ormiston, on the subject, and the Council of Public Instruction have confirmed his appointment as Second Master of the Normal School.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESULTS OF THE CULTURE OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL GROUNDS IN 1853.

On the establishment, in 1848, by His Excellency Lord Elgin, of Prizes to Normal School Students for proficiency in Agricultural Chemistry, it was deemed expedient by the Council of Public Instruction to set apart portions of the Normal School Grounds as an "Experimental Model Farm" on a small scale. The object was to give the Students an opportunity of seeing practically tests carried out, illustrative of the statements and theories of the Agricultural instruction which they had received from their Agricultural Teacher on the subject.

When the Normal School was first opened in the old Government House, in 1847, a portion of its Grounds was, in the Spring of 1848, set apart for the purpose of carrying out in it some Agricultural Experiments.

The following is a plan of a portion of the New Normal School Grounds, which were set apart for Agricultural Experiments in the Spring of 1853.